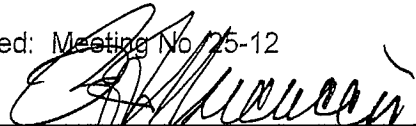



Approved: Meeting No. 25-12

Attest:

Mayor and Council
Retreat/Planning Session II
Monday, February 13, 2012
7:00 pm

The Mayor and Council met at 7:00 p.m., in the Mayor's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

Present:

Mayor Phyllis Marcuccio, Councilmember John F. Hall, Jr., Councilmember Tom Moore, Councilmember Bridget Donnell Newton and Councilmember Mark Pierzchala.

Staff Present:

Acting City Manager Jenny Kimball, City Attorney Debra Daniel, and Acting City Clerk Brenda Bean.

Visitors Present:

Roald Schrack, Joe Jordan, and Virginia Onley.

Media Present:

Alison Bryant (Gazette), Sean Sedam (The Patch), and Daryl Buchanan (The Sentinel)

Acting City Manager Jenny Kimball reviewed the materials that were distributed for the session.

Mayor and Council Rules and Procedures:

Councilmember Moore said that he would prefer a show of hands versus stating yay or nay to indicate votes at Mayor and Council meetings. After brief discussion, there was consensus to go back to a show of hands.

Action: Show of hands to indicate votes at Mayor and Council meetings.

Supermajority vs. Majority:

After brief discussion, and out of consideration for those wishing to speak on an agenda item, there was consensus to go with the majority rule.

Action: Use majority rule at meetings.

Board and Commission Policies and Rules of Procedures:

Mayor Marcuccio said that she and staff had met with Peter Mork and based on the outcome of that meeting had revised the Policy. Mayor Marcuccio suggested that the Council review the document and respond with any suggestions.

Action: Place this item on the February 27 agenda for discussion/adoption.

Town Center Action Team Discussion:

Councilmember Moore asked about the status of this group. Councilmember Newton, who is a member, gave an overview of the history of TCAT. She said that the group came out of the Imagine Rockville visioning series and, at the time, most of their work revolved around the development of Rockville Town Center. Ms. Newton said that the TCAT group is not under the Mayor and Council and, in fact, operates under their own charter and bylaws. There is no formal membership. Councilmember Pierzchala said that there is still an active email list for the group. Councilmember Moore said the work of TCAT would be very useful for when Phase II of Town Center gets underway. Mayor Marcuccio said that she learned more about Town Center from TCAT meetings and they became a real conduit for information.

Strategic Plan:

Councilmember Pierzchala drafted a Plan for 20 years. Councilmember Hall drafted one for 4 years. There was some discussion on the CIP Prioritization Sheet. Mayor Marcuccio mentioned a good tool that she received from MML Board of Directors meeting that gives a good sense of how things get into a five year plan.

Councilmember Hall – Is it possible that the City will take onto itself a more active program regarding the CIP? What if we were to make tremendous headway on Phase II of Town Center or the Rockville Pike Plan, for instance? Right now, it is a separate beast.

Councilmember Pierzchala – This document will be a component of the overall budget. Fundamentals of infrastructure are nowhere in sight. Taking money of the CIP presents the possibility that it does not even keep up with maintenance.

Councilmember Newton – The maintenance of some of these facilities should be a priority. We need to find ways to keep up with upkeep. Otherwise, we lose critical infrastructure. Other things (facilities) such as RedGate, the Swim Center, the new Police Department have been priority of late.

Mayor Marcuccio – Craig Simoneau has been very good about keeping us abreast when and if there are crisis projects. Is not sure we are falling that far behind.

Councilmember Moore – The amount that we put into CIP from end of year surpluses is a good chunk that gets spent. When money is left over at the end, little things, like Maryvale Park for instance, are deteriorating. The languishing is a concern. The Swim Center bath house, another prominent public facility, has been underfunded for years. This is another good example of things we have not been putting our resources toward.

Councilmember Hall – As a governing body, we should not ever “underfund” anything. Rather, we should be forward funding.

Mayor Marcuccio – Cited the Avery Road reconstruction. It has been pushed out for a long time. No matter how you look at it, if you don't have an extra two million dollars, it will be pushed out. It is not a critical issue to the City. It can be moved back. Rockcrest Center is another good example of a project that has been on the list for renovation for a long time. It also keeps getting pushed out

Councilmember Moore – When times are flush, we cut rates and don't fund water projects, etc. Things are tough now and if we have to drop another 2 million dollars next year, concerned that we won't have the money. We have the power to have the money.

Mayor Marcuccio - I do not want to raise the tax rate.

Councilmember Newton – the size of our government has grown. We need to take a hard look at the size of the government and what do we now need.

Councilmember Pierzchala – the numbers of current full time employees is the same number that the City had ten years ago.

Councilmember Moore - It is not clear to him that we are grossly overstaffed.

Mayor Marcuccio – Having just come back from Mayors' Conference, no other city has the ratio per person that we do.

Acting City Manager Kimball - If we are going to try to save money in the operating budget, reality is we will need to get rid of services and also people.

Councilmember Hall - there is an awful lot of similarity between his and Councilmember Pierzchala's efforts on the draft strategic plans. Councilmember Pierzchala definitely has some focus in his document that I do not.

Action: Give everyone enough time to review both documents thoroughly and then bring back to a Mayor and Council meeting.

Councilmember Pierzchala – Did not mean it to be for this two years. Looking at change in whole economic climate in metro area. Since we are facing such a sea change in the whole environment, really promoting Rockville summit in dealing with this change. Trying to get community to come to grips with this new reality.

Mayor Marcuccio – wants to look at these two documents in connection with the comprehensive master plan.

Councilmember Hall – last document did not provide specific guidance. Ground rule for him was not to exclude anything anyone said. You want a document that the entire body supports. This will be a valuable place to start.

Councilmember Pierzchala – The current vision is not actionable. It is like reading tea leaves. This Strategic Plan is a much better idea because it gives direction.

Action: Read the strategic plans drafted by Councilmember Pierzchala and Councilmember Hall and provide comments.

Councilmember Moore – Should we do this in a format like the retreat? Councilmember Pierzchala thinks it should be a formal meeting because of the nature of the document. Things of a substantial nature should be done in public. Councilmember Newton would like to have an informal meeting on this like tonight.

Councilmember Hall – what about if everything you want comes out and what you want in goes in, then how about a worksession to flush this out? Agrees with Councilmember Pierzchala. The public should be privy.

Councilmember Newton –this forum is far more constructive in terms of building relationships.

Mayor Marcuccio – pressures are going to come from all sorts of places. See strengths in what you have done. Let's not endlessly mix this. Can we agree that we have basic visions that we want to do and then move on?

Councilmember Hall– the point that Councilmember's Pierzchala and Moore are making is about transparency; wonders if a worksession might be in order. – it is possible to do a worksession at the end. it will be much more formal in a worksession. If at the very end, it is ok to go into a worksession.

Action: Get a final product together and take up in worksession.

Electronic Devices:

Action: Relating to agenda items, Councilmember Moore and Pierzchala use their tablets on the dais and Councilmember Hall uses his Blackberry. They will continue to do so.

City Clerk Search:


Mayor Marcuccio explained the process thus far. There have been interviews with people who made the list but were not the top five. Three interviews took place today and were conducted by Carlos Vargas, Councilmember Newton and Mayor Marcuccio. Of the three today, one was extremely viable and should go through for an interview with the Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Moore said he would have liked to have known about this ahead of time. Councilmember Newton said that an email had gone out. Councilmember Hall said he sees this as additional vetting and does not mind the initial screening. Councilmember Pierzchala said he was surprised to learn of this as well and agrees that in the future, we need to be clearer on things like this.

Charter Commission:

Mayor Marcuccio explained that she is interested in convening a Charter Commission for the purpose of discussing term limits and the form of government. Along with the council, she hopes to arrive at a process, procedures, timeline, who will comprise this group.

Councilmember Newton said that a good approach would to give the Commission topics to be studies but not suggest or request a specific outcome. Councilmember Pierzchala said that he does not wish to discuss it tonight and would prefer to make it a formal item at a Mayor and Council meeting. Councilmember Moore agrees that this would indeed be appropriate for a regular meeting.



Mayor Marcuccio – Would like council to submit names of people they would like to serve on the Charter Review Commission.

Action: Council to email Mayor their names. Distribute copy of the former Charter Review Commission's final report and any other documentation. Councilmember Moore is also interested in knowing what the historical interval for convening a Charter Review Commission has been as well the charging documents for previous Charter Review Commissions.

Acting City Manager Kimball distributed the Census Results document provided by the Planning Department.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business and upon motion of Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Pierzchala and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

